

Mr. HENDERSON. What is the special purpose of gathering up these buffalo? Is it merely to add an attraction to the park?

Mr. OLIVER. Partly, it is a matter of sentiment; it is considered desirable to preserve from extinction this animal which was such a very remarkable feature of the continent. Partly, of course, it is to add an attraction to certain parts of the country. Partly, it is with a view to the possibly commercial production of the buffalo. There is no doubt that there are certain commercial advantages in this animal, and it may be possible that they can be turned to account. It seemed reasonable that, at any rate, this government should go to some expense and secure such a number of buffalo as would enable that experiment to be tried out to a finish. The buffalo robe, as my hon. friend (Mr. Henderson) knows is very valuable.

Mr. HENDERSON. A rare bird.

Mr. OLIVER. Rare and very valuable. It has intrinsic values that probably no other fur has. It is a question whether it would not be profitable to rear buffalo for the sake of their products, just as cattle are reared. At any rate, we are in a position to try that experiment while carrying out these other ideas.

Mr. HERRON. At the time of the loading of the buffalo of the Pablo herd in Montana, it was stated, a number were running at large outside their location, and that the owner killed the ones that escaped. Is there any truth in that statement?

Mr. OLIVER. There is no doubt that great difficulties were experienced in corraling the buffalo and loading them. There were many stampedes and some losses, that is some of the buffalo were killed either accidentally or designedly. I did see it stated in the newspapers that it was the owner's intention to slaughter such of these animals as he found he would be unable to ship. That, however, does not affect the bargain made by the government with Mr. Pablo. We only pay for the buffalo actually delivered at the railroad station nearest to the park in Canada, at Wainwright, Banff or Elk Park, as the case may be. We pay him \$200 per head, and cost and charges of transportation, but we only pay for those he hands over to us.

Mr. HERRON. I have had applications which, I think, I showed to the minister, from people in my locality who are anxious to buy a pair or more of young buffalo. I would recommend to the minister the following out of a policy of that kind. Where a farmer has a desire, as a matter of curiosity for wild animals, and you know he is going to take the very

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best care of them, it would be a good idea to encourage him by giving him, at a reasonable rate, a pair of buffalo calves to see how they would grow and increase.

Mr. OLIVER. So far as we have framed a policy in regard to the matter, that is part of our intention. But we do not think it wise to enter upon any policy until we have cleared up the transaction with the owner in the United States. As soon as we have done that, as we hope to do in the spring, we shall be prepared to deal with the buffalo on a settled line of policy, and will look to the utilization of the herd, and, if possible, a profit on the expenditure.

Mr. HERRON. I have something to say on the park reserves, but I understand that that is not the question that is before you now, Mr. Chairman.

Amount required for Banff water works and sewerage, including \$9,741.63 payable to Breckenridge & Lund as extras in connection with unforeseen difficulties met in the carrying out of their contract for the construction of sewer works at Banff, Alberta.—Revote, \$12,500.

Mr. DANIEL. Was this under contract?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes. The contract was completed in 1909. A claim was made by the contractor for extra payment on account of difficulties encountered that had not been provided for under the specifications. The engineer reported favourably on the claim. We asked for the amount last year and it was covered by one of the estimates voted. But inasmuch as it had not been specifically voted, the Auditor General declined to pass it, and we are asking a direct revote of the amount.

Mr. DANIEL. You are asking for something more than the revote, for the claim is only something over \$9,700.

Mr. OLIVER. The total amount was \$12,500, but it included the \$9,741.65 mentioned here.

To provide for the expenses of the Dominion Forestry Convention held at Quebec in January, 1911, \$3,000.

Mr. DANIEL. Is this the whole amount?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. WILSON (Lennox). Is not this a new item? We have not had a vote of this kind before?

Mr. OLIVER. My hon. friend will remember that, when the forestry convention was held in Ottawa about four years ago, there was such an item.

Mr. WILSON (Lennox). I understand this was to pay the expenses of people who went to the convention, not salaries. The